

Minutes

February 27, 2007

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board of the Office of State Ethics held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2-A, 2nd floor, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 1:00 p.m.

The following members of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board were in attendance:

- Patricia T. Hendel, Chairperson
- Robert Worgaftik, Vice Chairperson
- Scott A. Storms, Board Member
- Enid Oresman, Board Member
- Dennis Riley, Board Member
- Michael Rion, Board Member
- Jaclyn Bernstein, Board Member
- Sister Sally J. Tolles, Board Member, via conference call
- Rebecca Doty, Board Member

The following staff members of the Office of State Ethics were in attendance:

- Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director
- Meredith Trimble, Education Director
- Wendy Hasbrouck, Fiscal Administrative Officer
- Christine V. Vieira, Office Assistant/Clerk
- TJ Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Patrick Lamb, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel
- Barbara Housen, General Counsel
- Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel
- Mark Wasielewski, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel
- Sandi Johnson, Office Assistant
- Sandra Roldan, Office Assistant

***The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board requested that all motions and votes taken be bolded and underlined.

***Minutes are briefly summarized. Tapes are available to the public for the entirety of Board meetings.

The following topics were discussed during the meeting (numbers do not correspond with agenda):

1. Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director, gave his Director's report for the Board. He also requested for future meetings, that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved before the Executive Director's report. The following matters contained in the report were presented:

- a. The OSE's current organizational chart was presented with three vacancies: one full-time position for the Special Investigator, one full-time position for the Data Processing Technician, and a third part-time position for the Human Resource Specialist.
- b. The electronic Lobbyist Filing system appears to be working well. The technical staff has moved on to the electronic Statements of Financial Interests. Ted Dobieski is coming to work for approximately 20 hours per week until June. He will assist with the online reporting functions and accessibility.
- c. The budget issues were addressed in Wendy Hasbrouck's presentation. She reported that along with Ben, they met with the GAE Committee members to discuss the proposed enforcement positions needed.

On another projected budget issue, if a municipal ethics bill is passed, the OSE may need to double its staff and budget.

- d. Senate Bill No. 1112 dealing with the "gifts to the state" issue was signed into law as public act No. 07-1 on February 8th. House Bill No. 7002 is the current vehicle for the OSE's legislative proposal package. It has had no action since the February 5th public hearing.
 - e. Senator Edward Meyer, (D) Guilford, requested the "position" of the OSE as to the revocation of pensions and benefits of public officials and state employees convicted of corruption. The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board decided (no vote taken) that there be a consequence to political corruption and encourage legislation to that affect.
 - f. Meredith Trimble presented the ethics training schedule and indicated that she has trained over 400 state employees thus far in 2007.
2. Minutes for the January 25, 2007 meeting were presented to the Board. **Patricia Hendel, Chairperson, entertained a motion for approval. The motion was moved by Board member Enid Oresman and seconded by Board Member Jaclyn Bernstein. The vote was unanimous in favor with all nine (9) approving the minutes with amendments.**
 3. The OSE draft emergency regulations were reviewed by the Board. The draft regulations contained both technical and emergency proposals. The Board discussed the draft regulations at length and made its own recommendations regarding certain proposed changes. The Board approved the regulations with its recommendations (see below) and noted that the incorporation of the board's recommendations will be reviewed in the final draft and reported to General

Counsel by Board members Storms, Tolles, and Oresman. **Board member Michael Rion entertained a motion to adopt the regulations (as stated and amended above) and seconded by Board members Scott Storms & Enid Oresman. The nine (9) Board members voted unanimously to adopt the regulations.**

4. Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel, spoke on Advisory Opinion No. 4070. A state employee had presented several outside employment questions involving the maintenance staff of DOT's Office of Maintenance and Highway Operations (Office of Maintenance) and asked whether their participation in outside employment in any way violate the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (Code of Ethics). The Board was asked to determine whether, under the cases presented, it is permissible for the Office of Maintenance employees to pursue outside employment without violating applicable Codes of Ethics provisions and regulations. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adopt the advisory opinion. The motion was moved by Board member Storms and seconded by Board member Bernstein. The vote was eight (8) in favor of, and one (1) against, adoption of the advisory opinion with Board member Dennis Riley against adoption of the opinion.**
5. Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel, spoke to the request for further interpretation of General Statutes §1-84(p). The request comes from the OSE's Assistant General Counsel and she asks whether supervisors and/or subordinates may pool their money to give a collective or group gift valued in excess of the monetary limit set forth in General Statutes §1-84(p), a gift provision in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, chapter 10, part 1, of the General Statutes. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adopt the further interpretation of General Statutes §1-84(p). The vote was moved by Board member Storms and seconded by Board member Rion. All nine (9) Board members voted unanimously to adopt the interpretation.**

Chairperson Hendel reported on her discussions with Executive Director, Ben Bycel about his evaluation. She explained that this was a preliminary evaluation process with the finalized process occurring in June 2007.

Board member Riley entertained a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was moved by Chairperson Hendel and seconded by Board member Oresman. The Board meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine V. Vieira
Clerk, Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

Approved: _____